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METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SELECTING MULTICAST IP DATA TRANSMITTED IN BROADCAST STREAMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Through the association of an IP address with each data stream, a
10 single system may be used by a network card or a tuner to select multicast IP
data. Each data stream associated with a tuner is identified by a unique IP
address. More particularly, a locator adapted for identifying a data stream is
obtained, where the locator is associated with one of a plurality of data
streams. The locator is then mapped to an IP address. Through the use of this
15 mapping, a digital television receiver may obtain the appropriate locator to
read the associated data stream. It is then determined whether the IP address
corresponds to a data stream locator associated with a data stream. When it is
determined that the IP address corresponds to a data stream locator associated
with a data stream, a tuner is instructed to read the data stream associated with
20 the data stream locator. However, when it is determined that the IP address
does not correspond to a data stream locator, a network card identified by the
IP address is instructed to read data from the associated network. Since each
data stream may be associated with a plurality of multicast IP addresses, a
multicast group address is specified to identify the appropriate multicast IP
25 data transmitted in the data stream. Packets addressed to the multicast group
address may then be received by either a tuner or a network interface card.